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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

OES-06 EPA-01 CEQ-01 DOTE-00 EB-07 CU-02 COME-00

TRSE-00 OMB-01 STR-04 FEA-01 ERDA-05 SAJ-01 ACDA-07

OIC-02 /109 W

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R 091655Z DEC 76

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4119

INFO USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 9815

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECE, CSCE, UN

SUBJ: ECE - WESTERN CAUCUS MEETING DECEMBER 9, 1976

1. SUMMARY. ECE WESTERN CAUCUS AT MEETING DECEMBER 9 CONSIDERED (A) AGENDA FOR ECE 32ND SESSION, (B) HOLDING OF ALL-EUROPEAN CONGRESSES ON ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND ENERGY, (C) REPORT OF ECE TO BELGRADE CSCE FOLLOW-UP MEETING, AND (D) PREPARATIONS FOR FOURTH SEMINAR ON EAST-WEST TRADE PROMOTION, MARKETING AND BUSINESS CONTACTS. END SUMMARY.

2. AGENDA FOR ECE 32ND SESSION (APRIL 18-29, 1977): DISCUSSION CENTERED ON WHETHER 32ND SESSION DELEGATES SHOULD EXPRESS VIEWS ON TOPICS COVERED BY ITEM 5 (FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION) DURING GENERAL DEBATE UNDER ITEM 4 (WORK OF THE COMMISSION AS A WHOLE), AS SUGGESTED BY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY STANOVNIK, OR SEPARATELY, AS SUGGESTED BY UK. UK REASONED THAT SEPARATE DISCUSSION OF ITEM 4 WOULD STRESS IMPORTANCE OF ECE IN OWN RIGHT APART FROM CSCE FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES TO BE CONSIDERED UNDER ITEM 5. US RAISED QUESTION AS TO WHETHER ITEM 5 (C) (ALL-EUROPEAN CONGRESSES) WOULD BE LESS PROMINENT IF DEBATE ON TWO ITEMS JOINED. CANADA REPORTED SOVIETS MIGHT BE CONSIDERING REMOVAL OF CONGRESSES ISSUE FROM ITEM 5 AND INCLUSION IN ITEM 4

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(THEREBY SEPARATING IT FROM OTHER MATTERS COVERED BY

31ST SESSION DECISIONS AND ENSURING EARLIER CONSIDERATION). CHAIRMAN, AMBASSADOR KASTOFF (DENMARK), FOUND NO CONSENSUS ON THESE QUESTIONS. HE SUGGESTED DECISION ON FIRST POINT MIGHT BE TAKEN JUST PRIOR TO SESSION WHILE SECOND POINT COULD BE CONSIDERED FURTHER IF IT AROSE. (DECISION ON LATTER POINT WOULD CLEARLY BE NEGATIVE.)

3. ALL-EUROPEAN CONGRESSES ON ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND ENERGY: CHAIRMAN REPORTED LETTERS RECEIVED BY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY FROM GDR AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA GIVING VIEWS ON SOVIET PROPOSAL AND WOULD BE CIRCULATED SOON UNDER TERMS OF DECISION B(XXXI). HE SAID CZECH LETTER GAVE FEW DETAILS RE MATTERS WHICH CONGRESSES MIGHT CONSIDER AND DID NOT SPECIFY ROLE FOR ECE. GDR LETTER GAVE MORE DETAILS AND SUGGESTED ROLE FOR ECE IN PREPARATION AND HOLDING OF CONGRESSES (BUT NOT THAT CONGRESSES WOULD BE HELD WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF ECE). CHAIRMAN SAID STANOVNIK HAD CARRIED BACK FROM MOSCOW COPY OF SOVIET LETTER ON SAME SUBJECT. MOSCOW VISIT HAD FOCUSED ALMOST ENTIRELY ON CONGRESSES, WHICH SOVIETS NOW WILLING TO CALL "INTER-GOVERNMENTAL CONSULTATIONS". IN RESPONSE TO STANOVNIK QUESTION WHETHER LETTERS RECEIVED FROM EASTERN COUNTRIES WERE DELIBERATELY AMBIGUOUS RE ROLE OF ECE, FOREIGN AFFAIRS VICE MINISTER RADIONOV REPLIED IN AFFIRMATIVE. HE SAID SOVIETS DID NOT WISH TO SPECIFY ECE ROLE BEFORE DECISION TAKEN TO HOLD CONGRESSES FOR FEAR THEY WOULD BE BURIED IN ECE PRINCIPAL SUBSIDIARY BODIES. CHAIRMAN SAID STANOVNIK HAD TOLD HIM SOVIET LETTER CONTAINED NOTHING NEW AND THAT HE HAD WARNED SOVIETS THEY COULD NOT SIT BACK AND EXPECT WEST TO RESPOND.

4. CHAIRMAN SAID HIS OWN CONVERSATIONS WITH SOVIETS IN GENEVA REVEALED THAT THEY DID NOT ACCEPT ECE AS SPONSOR FOR CONGRESSES (BUT ONLY ROLE IN PREPARATION AND FOLLOW-UP) AND THAT THEY HAD MODEST EXPECTATIONS RE ACTION ON THEIR PROPOSAL AT 32ND SESSION (PERHAPS DECISION ALONG LINES OF B(XXXI) BUT WITH MORE SPECIFIC ROLE FOR ECE PRINCIPAL SUBSIDIARY BODIES). NETHERLANDS AMBASSADOR, SPEAKING FOR EC-9, SAID EC-9 HAD REACHED PRELIMINARY

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CONCLUSIONS THAT ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND ENERGY TOPICS ARE ADEQUATELY COVERED BY EXISTING ECE WORK PROGRAM (IMPLYING EC-9 OPPOSITION TO CONGRESSES).

5. ECE REPORT TO BELGRADE CSCE FOLLOW-UP MEETINGS: CHAIRMAN SUGGESTED THREE POSSIBILITIES: (A) REPORT PREPARED BY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, (B) REPORT OF 32ND SESSION WITH COVERING NOTE, (C) NO REPORT. NETHERLANDS

(SPEAKING FOR EC-9) SAID EXECUTIVE SECRETARY SHOULD PREPARE DETAILED REPORT ON OWN RESPONSIBILITY AND PRESENT IT AT BELGRADE. THIS SUPPORTED BY US, MALTA AND YUGOSLAVIA. CHAIRMAN SAW CONSENSUS ON THIS POINT BUT HAD LITTLE HOPE EASTERN CAUCUS WOULD AGREE.

6. FOURTH SEMINAR ON EAST-WEST TRADE PROMOTION, MARKETING AND BUSINESS CONTACTS (MARCH 21-25, 1977: UK NOTED THAT ONLY THREE WESTERN COUNTRIES (UK, US, NETHERLANDS) HAD AGREED TO PREPARE PAPERS FOR SUBJECT MEETING AND APPEALED TO OTHERS TO DO LIKEWISE IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT SEMINAR WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL. UK PLEA SUPPORTED BY US AND NETHERLANDS.CATTO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, TREATY COMPLIANCE, RELATIONS WITH REGIONAL ORGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976GENEVA09815
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760455-1249
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761259/aaaabytb.tel
Line Count: 128
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <07 SEP 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECE - WESTERN CAUCUS MEETING DECEMBER 9, 1976
TAGS: PFOR, ECE, CSCE, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006